

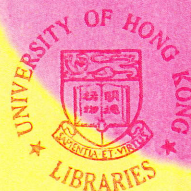
GAY & LESBIAN MAGAZINE

CONTACTS 接觸

雜誌 *magazine*

ISSUE NO.45

\$35.00



24 JUN 1997

CHINESE TONGZHI

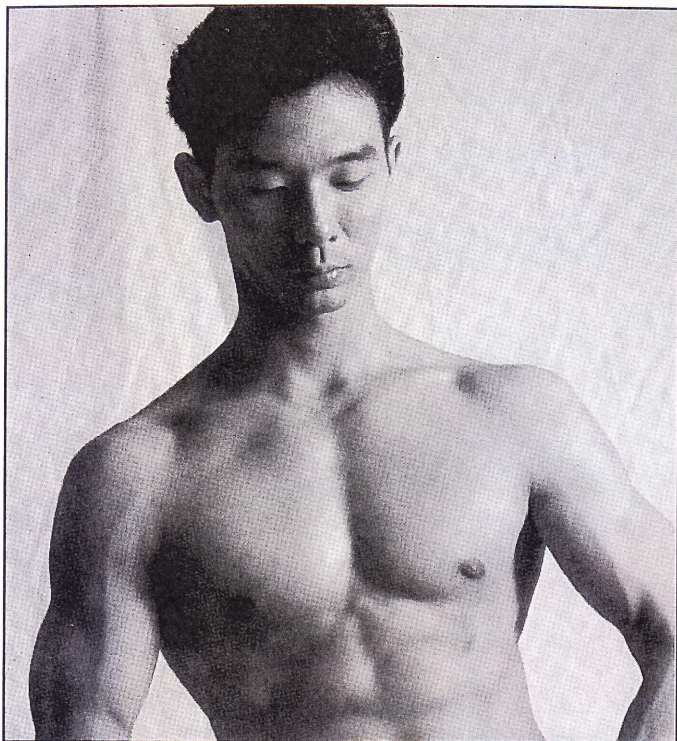
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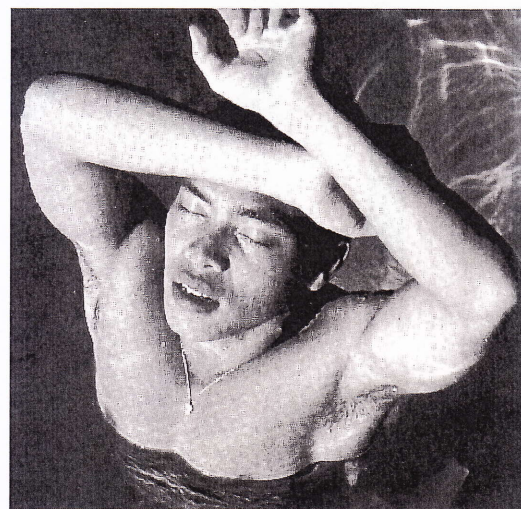
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It should have been the highlight of the year for the Hong Kong's Gay community. The potential for promoting and expanding Gay lifestyles was certainly clear to everyone involved in the Chinese Tongzhi Conference.

And yet when it actually happened, a bare five months after it's conception, it appears to have taken the organisers by surprise. Although organisers gave the idea of an international conference very high priority—they spurned the Equal Opportunity Rally in July, preferring to hold a small group meeting instead—when it came to practical matters and accepted guidelines on how conferences are organised they singularly failed to produce a credible event.

It would have been more than helpful to have had an agenda. Having an agenda focuses attention, allows participants to prepare arguments on any given subject. But contrary to accepted good practice there wasn't an agenda.

With an alleged attendance of over 200 people, who met for two and a half days wasn't it remarkable that there weren't any conclusions? That 200 people could meet for that length of time and not reach any conclusions seems to us to be **so astonishing** that it should be presented to the Guinness book of records as the first Gay conference that didn't achieve anything of note.

The whole idea of an international conference is an excellent one that needs a great deal of understanding, commitment and above all planning down to the very last detail. That this one did not reach the high level we had a right to expect bodes ill for future conferences.

It isn't good enough for the organisers to say that it was an experience. All of life is an experience, to quote Oscar Wilde "Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes."

Having, voluntarily, taken on responsibility for events organisations, have a duty to the Gay community to ensure that such events are of the highest possible quality. If they cannot reach the standards required we think it **better that they leave it to others who can and will do better.**

Issue No. 45

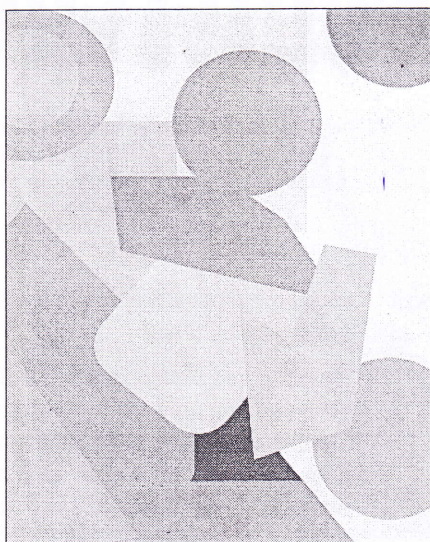
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CONTACTS 接觸
雜誌 *magazine*

E-mail Address: bandt@hk.super.net

Issue No. 45

Tel: (852)-2817-9447



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Chinese Tongzhi

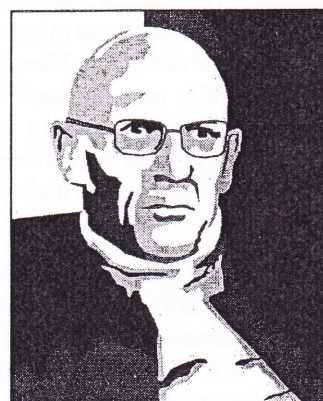
BOOKS REGISTERED IN ORDINANCE
CAP 142
Number: HK - 1997

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New Co-ordinator



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The Last Ones
Coming Out Older Men

Editor: Barrie Brandon **Design & Layout:** Thomas Choi **News & Features:** Danny Wong, Jason Leung **Advertising & Subscriptions:** Tony Ng **Contacts Magazine** printed by Island Publishing Company Ltd., Hong Kong GPO Box 13427, Hong Kong.

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Tongzhi Conference Manifesto

(Editors Note: We are printing the full unexpurgated version of the manifesto in English and Chinese as it is likely that many people will want to have access to it.)

Same sex love has been existing in all cultures since ancient times. Scholars find that many cultures take a tolerant attitude towards homosexuality and bisexuality. In addition, sexual behaviour among members of the same sex has been observed in animals. The authoritative Kinsey Report reveals that of the nearly ten thousand adults being interviewed, approximately 10% was classified as homosexuals.

Regardless of the number of homosexuals and bisexuals in the world, the issue is whether this group of people is being discriminated against by the mainstream society. The contemporary society remains heterosexist. The mainstream sexual discourses in mass media, education system and legal structure is predicated upon a reproductive, monogamous social structure. The Les-bi-Gay world is often being viewed in a voyeuristic, derogatory way. This causes many tongzhi to feel ashamed and guilty. Many tongzhi have to disguise as a "normal" heterosexual in the public and lead a secretive double life, which has caused destructive psychological damages to their personal development.

Many people mistakenly criticise Chinese culture as sexually repressive and conservative. Some even think that homosexuality is a corrupt import from the West. In fact, traditional Chinese culture was tolerant towards same sex love. Mencius says, "The joy of eating and sex are natural human desires", both of which have no association with sin or guilt. Buddhist, a religion which has been well assimilated into the Chinese culture for 2,000 years, neither advocates heterosexuality nor denounces homosexuality, and emphasises the notion of bodichitta, which means that all beings have the potential to become Buddha. The vast documentation also reveals the high level of

social tolerance towards same sex love in pre-modern China.

Hostility and violence, such as harsh legal punishment, bashing and lynching' against same sex love in pre-modern China cannot be found in historical records. For instance, the introduction of sodomy law in Hong Kong in 1865, which could sentence two consenting male adults to life imprisonment, was the result of British colonial rule. What was brought from the West to China was not same sex love, but the sin associated with it in the Judaeo-Christian tradition, which significantly contributed to the homophobia found in modern Chinese societies.

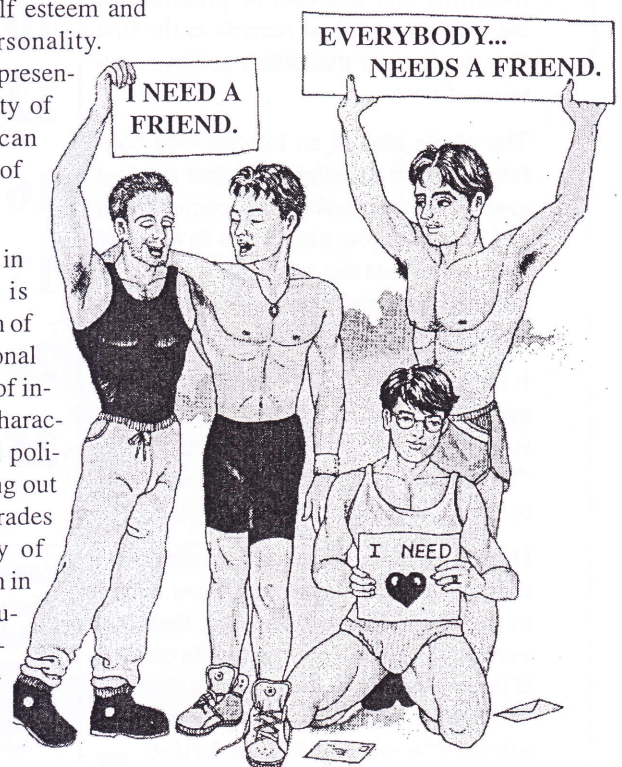
In recent years, there has been encouraging development in the tongzhi communities of mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Cultural exchanges among tongzhi in different Chinese societies can help tongzhi to reclaim self esteem and to develop a healthy personality. Moreover, the accurate representation and positive visibility of the tongzhi community can correct misunderstandings of the mainstream society.

The Les-bi-Gay movement in many Western societies is largely built upon the notion of individualism, confrontational politics, and the discourse of individual rights. Certain - characteristics of confrontational politics, such as through coming out and mass protests and parades may not be the best way of achieving tongzhi liberation in the family-centred, community oriented Chinese societies which stresses the importance of social harmony. In formulating the tongzhi movement strategy, we

should take the specific socio-economic and cultural environment of each society into consideration.

We are a group of Chinese tongzhi unashamed and proud of who we are. While we do not deny our sexual orientation, we do not advertise the sexual aspect of our life. If the society can deal with this issue without prejudice, everyone, tongzhi or otherwise, need not highlight her or his sexuality. People should respect each other as an individual regardless of sexual orientation and other social differences. With this goal in mind, together we can build a better society.

古往今來,同性間情愛乃跨越時空文化差異的恆古常存.人類學者發現,大部份民族與部落對同性及雙性情愛普遍持寬容態度.



動物學研究亦在很多動物中發現同性交合的情況.當今被公認為最具規模而又科學可靠的性學調查,乃訪問近萬人的金賽研究,發現約百分之十的人口為同性愛者.問題不在乎百分數之高低,而是同志是否因為無知與偏見而受到主流社會歧視與傷害.

當今社會仍是異性戀中心主義,從電視、流行曲、教育制度、課本內容以至法律制度,均建基於一男一女生殖本位異性愛體系,對同性情愛極盡偷窺獵奇,扭曲醜化之傷害,引致不少同志自幼就內化了非常負面的同志形象,自卑自憐,終日掛上異性愛面具,過著偷偷摸摸的雙重生活,對健康人格發展構成極大破壞.

過往,有論者批評中國文化「性抑壓」、「性保守」,甚至視同性愛為西方傳入的精神污染,此乃極大的誤解.中國文化博大精深,「孟子」引告子說:「食、色、性也」,性愛如吃飯般自然

,並不把性事當作污穢、病態、罪惡.在中國植根兩千年的佛教,強調眾生皆有佛性,既不鼓吹異性愛,也不反對同性愛.至於同性愛及雙性愛,更是史不絕盡,上自宮廷,下至販夫走卒,由小童至老翁,從宦官到戍卒,以至今文學名著,都有同性情愛之豐富記載,實為傳統文化所寬容.

華人文化傳統一向寬容對待同性情愛,從未有像西方社會把同志燒死,或訂定法律加以制裁.香港自一八六五年起,訂定法律制裁同性性事,可判終身監禁,實因香港為英國殖民地之關係.西風東漸的,並非同性愛,而是猶太基督教視同性愛為罪惡的仇視和恐懼.

華人同志文化,近年在兩岸三地皆有健康發展,雖曰三地在經濟、政治、文化面貌迥異,但同性情愛乃超越社會政治體制之人性自然情愛,故華人同志間之思想交流,既幫助同志建立健康人

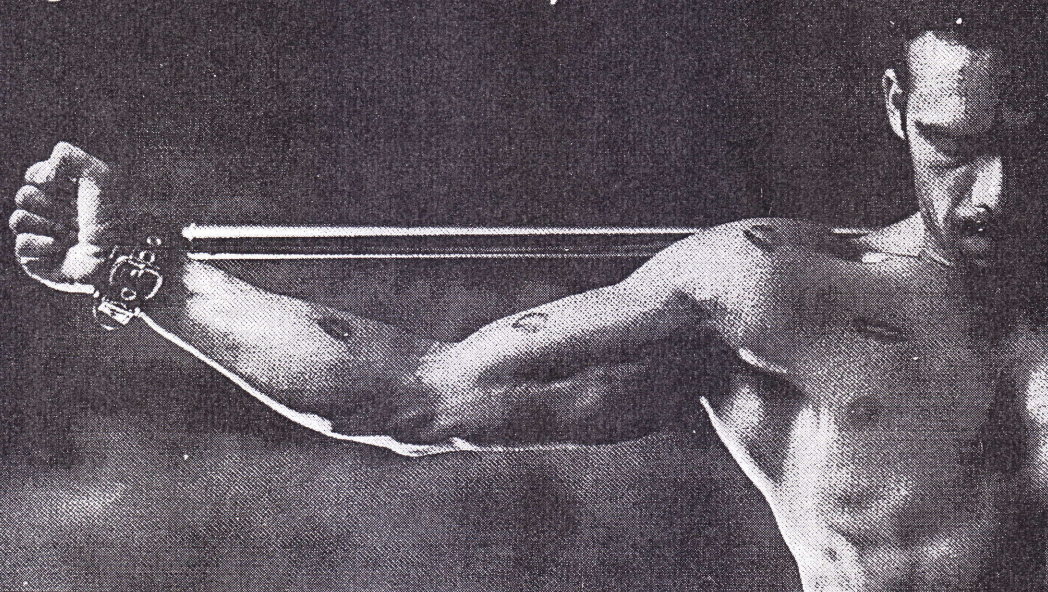
格,成為社會的良好市民,也有糾正主流社對同志的誤解.

西方同志運動,是建基於個人主義的經濟與文化體系,而發展出爭取個人自由和權益的對抗式政治.以個人現身、集體遊行及法律改革為本的對抗式西方同志運動,不一適合以家庭宗族為本,強調和諧人倫及社會關係的華人社會.我們應該按華人社會及同志的獨特處境,發展出適合自身文化處境的同志理念,讓同志健康和諧地融和在社會裡.

同性情愛是人類自然情感的一部份,倘若大家能以平常心看待,同志根本不必大費周章地站出來作平反.我們是一群華人同志,不卑不亢、自尊自重,既不定自身的性取向,也不刻意突出性的部份,本著平常心,盼望眾生,不論性取向或一切社會文化差異,懷著一顆關懷的心,互相尊重,共同建設美好社會.

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Australia

A senior police officer has accused Victoria Police of an anti-gay harassment campaign against him. Senior Sergeant David Trueman, former head of the Northcote police station, claims he has been falsely accused of paedophilia. In the past, Trueman had helped promote the force as Gay and

Lesbian friendly to the public. Not long afterwards he was facing the accusations which an internal investigation found were unproven. He is still facing disciplinary action for offences he said should have only led to a rebuke from a superior. Trueman is a part of a Gay and Lesbian police group that were highly publicised in a colour spread for the *Herald Sun*.

Trueman told newspapers "Too many times in the past, gay and lesbian members have quietly left the police force because it was too overwhelming to stand up to the them."

Greece

Three monks and a priest were last month ordered to face trial before a religious court in connection with tales of sex, child abuse and corruption in a monastery on the remote Aegean island of Kithira. Clergymen at the Osios Theodoros monastery participated in sex games, holding private beauty pageants in flowing cocktail gowns and indulging in orgies of homosexual sex, according to a television news program. Bishop Iakovos of Kithira suspended the clergymen from their religious duties, and referred them to "ecclesiastic justice ... for breaching a series of religious canons and rude televised scandalizing of the flock." The Archbishop of Greece has so far refrained from making any comment, but church officials in this predominantly Orthodox Christian nation said the defendants may be defrocked if found guilty.

Singapore

Said to be the silent Queen of Asia Singapore still has a number of places where Gay people meet. According to a posting on the Internet those for **Guys**:

1. Kakado karaoke pub at Boat Quay Tel. 5342132
2. Babylon Pub at Tanjong Pager Road Tel. 2277466
3. Vincent karaoke pub 5/F Lucky Plaza at Orchard Road Tel no. 7361360
4. Music World Disco (Sundays) East Coast Road Tel. 4473818

Girls

1. DaDa Pub at Boat Quay Tel. 5388979
2. Crocodile Rock Pub 5/F Far East Plaza at Orchard Road Tel. 7380535

Mixed

1. Zouk Disco (Wednesdays and Thursdays) 17 Jiak Kim Road Tel. 7382988
2. Boon Boon (trans show) Bugis Street Tel. 7798178

TAIWAN

Gay filmmaker Gregg Araki's "*Totally F***ked Up*" has been censored in

Taiwan, reported the *NewsPlanet* World Wide

Web site. The film was scheduled for a full run at the Golden Horse Film

Festival but the government's Information Bureau

restricted it to a one-time screening for film professionals only, *NewsPlanet*

said. "The moral values in our society simply aren't

compatible with those of other cultures," the bureau

stated. Araki's "*The Doom Generation*" was allowed

to show as scheduled. His "*The Living End*" screened unobstructed in 1993.

Zimbabwe

The British Council in Zimbabwe banned a gay group from using its facilities—then promptly

changed its mind at the first whiff of media

attention last month. A small gay rights group,

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ),

wanted to use money from a Canadian Aids

Trust to run a drama project in the country and

tried to hire a small conference room at the British Council in Harare.

The group was told that their project was "political" and therefore of-

fended agreements between the Council and

the Zimbabwean government, and their request

was refused. Homosexuality is illegal in Zim-

babwe. President Robert Mugabe has called gay

people "worse than pigs" and has tried to ban

GALZ from Zimbabwe's International Book Fair

for the past two years.

New Zealand

The New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) launched on Friday, reports Mark Profit, a new booklet called "*Guidelines for reducing your risk of HIV infection*." In launching the new booklet both Tony Ewing, National Prevention Manager and Tony

Hughes, Research Director, said that a lot of research had gone in reviewing the safer sex guidelines. The launch of the booklet is the first major review of HIV risk since the launch of the "condoms always" launched over ten years ago. The guidelines use street language and a clear showing that the real risk with HIV infection is anal or vaginal sex without a condom. The programme means that the New Zealand gay community in particular is receiving a slightly different message from that of the Australian Gay community where the "Test, Test, Test, Trust" programme was launched late last year.

Beautiful Cards



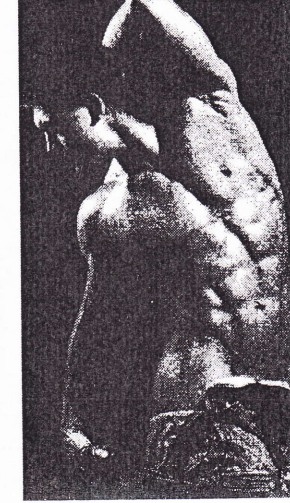
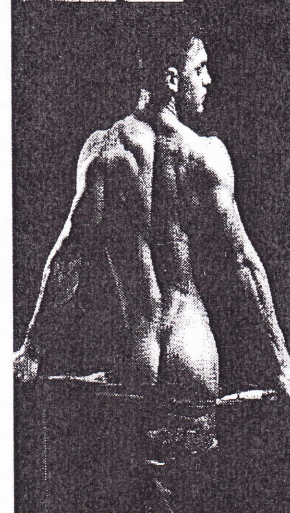
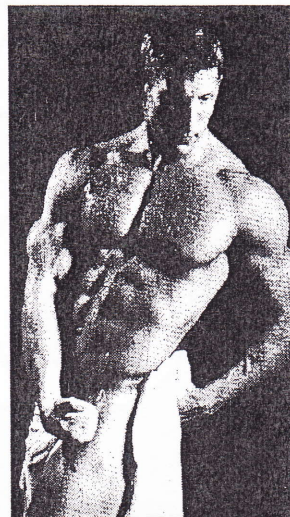
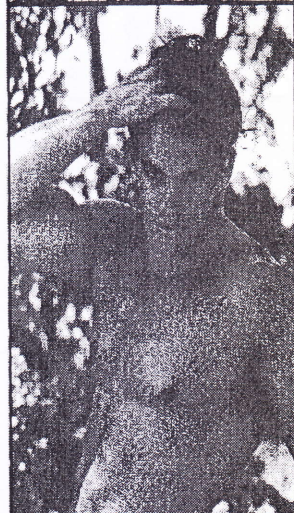
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Scene Around

香港

Gay Parents. A new Gay and Lesbian parents association is forming in January. This will be a support group only - a chance to meet others just like you. You don't have to be "out" nor do your children need to live in Hong Kong. All you need is the desire to share your feelings of being a Gay or Lesbian parent with the joys, frustrations, and interest in helping others and receiving support in the same role. Call Gertrude on 2581-0146 during office hours for details.

Choir. Liedertafel is a mostly Gay, men-only choir of Hong Kong. In the New Year its arranger, rehearser and conductor will leave for a job in Italy, threatening the future of this excellent choir. If anyone would like to step forward, or knows of a suitable and motivated person, let us know and we'll pass your name on to them.

Fifi Goodbye. All good things must come to an end, so the saying goes. And so it is with Fifi whose last column (for the foreseeable future) **appears in this issue. But before we all** reach for the box of Kleenex the good news is, for all who have an Internet account, that Fifi's past columns will be published on our web page. Surf to <http://www.hk.super.net/~bandt>.

Tongzhi Manifest. A report on the Chinese Tongzhi Conference can be found on page 14. The Manifest is on page 4 with an editorial comment on page 3.

AIDS Ball Plans to Raise Hong Kong \$1,000,000 for AIDS Charities in the Territory

In recent months AIDS charities have turned to the public for help in funding their much needed programs. In an attempt to take this cause to a wider audience, a group of young and influential Hong Kongers have come together to organise the event of the year, *The Valentine's Ball*, to offer much needed financial assistance to these charities, and generate greater awareness among the general public.

The Valentine's Ball is planned for Saturday 15 February 1997. Those attending complete a fun questionnaire about themselves in order to find their 'perfect match' for the evening. Details will be keyed into a computer and guests will be matched accordingly. Each guest will receive one half of a ticket along with their 'date's' name and a way of making contact. Each guest must contact their date, meet beforehand, and present the ticket as a whole in order to enter the event. Once they have entered the event they are under no obligation to stay with their appointed dates. The idea is everyone to meet someone new and have fun! Any individuals or companies interested in offering assistance to *The Valentine's Ball* should contact Jacqueline Ratnavira, on 9104-7412

5 years of Gay skiing! Swing (Skiing With International Gays) celebrates: For the fifth time an international Gay ski week will be organised in the Swiss Alps during the third week of March 97. A mixture of sport, culture and fun every year attracts more and more people. The great ski slopes, the first class hotel, the evening program with Swiss specialities, hike by torch light, skating, cinema, concert, disco and the costume ball as well as the attractive, "everything included" price are the reason for the great success of swing. It all adds up to a splendid, fun filled week. For further information please contact: Swing, Wagnerweg 8, 8810 Horgen, Switzerland

Condoms The Consumer Council reported recently that over a third of condoms on sale in Hong Kong are unsafe. The Consumer Council, the territory's consumer affairs watchdog, tested 95 kinds, and as a result the Customs and Excise Department recently seized 400,000 faulty condoms from 11 distributors and seven retailers. Customs officers are now considering legal action. The Consumer Council said that despite the seizures, unsafe condoms might still be on sale in some shops.

Sorry this issue is late due to staff sickness and some unforeseen technical problems.

Due to the Lunar New Year the next issue will be in March so look for us then. meanwhile please do keep us up-to-date with all the latest news and, dare we say, gossip.

QUOTES ONOLE?

What they said...

"Hong Kong people will never get human rights - they don't deserve them."

Emily Lau Legislative Councillor.

"It was after all just an experience."

Julian Chan talking to Contacts Magazine about the Chinese Tongzhi conference.

"What is said behind my back is said to my ass."

Clemenceau (French Politician 1841-1929)

"There was a time in my teens that I actually slept with women. It was just an awkward phase I was passing through."

Out magazine Editor Michael Goff.

"When [famed gay author Edmund White] came out [to Australia] for the Mardi Gras nearly two years ago we had a brief love affair which finished up in an S&M romp. No, we didn't do anything too heavy, but a bit of slap and tickle, with me playing the role of stern daddy and him crying out what a bad, bad boy he'd been. So he had to be spanked again and again 'cos he'd been such a very, very bad boy."

Columnist Peter Blazey writing in the November issue of Outrage.

"I'm tired of being passive [around AIDS]. I don't want to stand at the quilt. I don't want to do any of that stuff. I want to find the cure. Period."

Liza Minnelli to Gay Times.

"Simply by not breeding, you are making an important contribution to the environmental security of the planet. Think about it. You are not producing generations of energy-guzzling, resource-depleting, pollution-belching offspring. Put simply, that means gay sex is the safest sex — for the whole world. So go ahead. Carry on, carrying on with whatever you like carrying on doing. And next time a tie-dyed, pram-pushing greenie tut-tuts at your consumer-ridden, apparently shallow shopping lifestyle, really shake their rattle. Tell them you're one of the best friends of the earth this planet has got."

Simon Birch in London's The Pink Paper.

The question is simple. Have we made significant progress in the past ten years when it comes to dealing with AIDS?

One significant development has been the establishment of non-governmental organizations. These agencies developed a wide range of services. Initially focusing on educational and awareness programs, they later developed services that related directly to PHA's (People with HIV/AIDS). These included alternative therapies, counselling, hospice home nursing care, library resources, PHA funds, support service, and a volunteer service. These services have developed over time. What is continually needed, is the foresight to recognise needs and the will to address them.

These organizations themselves have created an AIDS Industry, all competing for funding and resources from a single market, giving rise to its own politics. Three different organizations, have duplicated nine different services, from awareness programs to publication. Can resources, funding, and manpower be better utilized, other than duplicating services?

One major battle that has been going on in Hong Kong, which is far from being resolved, is the fight against discrimination.

Discrimination is wrong. Given this fundamental truth. Why has it taken Hong Kong so long in taking steps to pass anti-discrimination legislation? This is a blight on Hong Kong, that leads to a callous attitude towards those who do not fit "the norm." For those who are not protected by legislation,

Three different organizations, have duplicated nine different services, from awareness programs to publication.

AIDS in HONG KONG



Dealing with the past decade

a cloud of anxiety and fear always looms. Sometimes those fears are realized.

Most people with HIV infection who have been hospitalized do not have major complaints about the care they have received. Nevertheless, the quality of care can always be improved. This is being achieved by the development of a multi-disciplinary approach to HIV treatment by hospital staff. Psychosocial work is often identified with hospital care. Government hospitals are not in a position to offer substantial psychosocial support. This is an extremely important area that needs

to be extensively examined and addressed.

A major development in PHA care has been the establishment of the Society For AIDS Care. Due to home care visits by nurses, patients with ongoing medical treatments can stay in

We give thanks to our families and friends, who despite our disease, give us support, love and the courage to face the future.

their homes, avoiding attending out-patient clinics at government facilities. This allows patients to keep a sense of control through guidance.

Treatment of AIDS patients has also drastically changed, due to the development of new drugs and treatments. The death sentence scenario has lifted and a new hope is emerging. This has significantly changed working attitudes of all those in the AIDS care field.

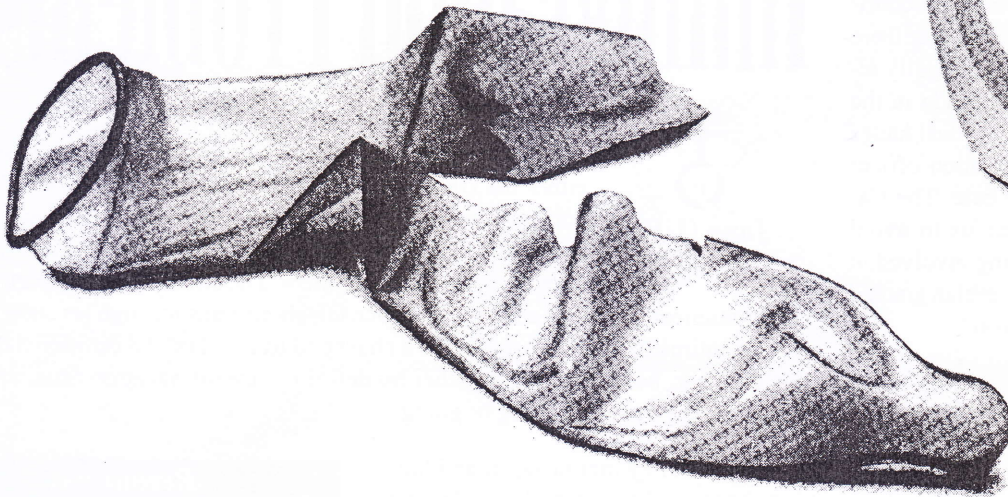
Treatment, and the life expectancy of AIDS patients, still rely heavily on the commitment and resources that governments are willing to allocate.

As a group of PHA individuals there also have been ten years of growth and development. Initially, PHA's felt ashamed and or guilty. This was a reflection of how society viewed us. As we become more aware and deal with our disease a new identity emerges. One based on acceptance and respect for fellow PHA's, irrespective of society's view.

We give thanks to our families and friends, who despite our disease, give us support, love and the courage to face the future.

Editor's note: This article was written by a Hong Kong PHA. The author remains anonymous by request.

Oil and condoms don't mix.



Baby oil, olive oil, butter, even Vaseline. If it contains oil, keep it away from condoms. It can ruin them.

So if you're using oil to give each

other a massage, have a towel or tissue handy to wipe your hands.

And don't use anything as a lubricant that might contain oil. Such a moisturiser like Nivea, or a hand

cream. Even soap and shampoo have oil in them.


The only safe lubricant is a water-based one. KY is an example.

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Being able to live in the same country as the person you love is a basic human right. It is a human right which is withheld from Lesbians in bi-national couples. The current immigration policy of many countries gives resident status to spouses of heterosexual citizens, but does not extend this status to the partners of Lesbians. For couples in this situation being unable to marry legally can mean being unable to live together without subterfuge.

There are exceptions. New Zealand Lesbians are able to acquire resident status for their lovers on the basis of de-facto relationships, a privilege also available to heterosexual couples who are not married. In Australia there is an 'inter-dependency' clause in the immigration laws, which allows residents to sponsor an unrelated person who is in the position of family. Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands allow immigration of same-sex lovers. In Canada over the past year more than 50 Lesbian and gay aliens have been granted immigrant status on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Although exact figures are not available for the number of visas granted to partners of Lesbians, the work of the organizations listed at the end of this article documents that the numbers are growing. Lesbians all over the world are in need of similar protection, if they are not allowed the option of marrying.

For most people meeting your life partner is a joyous time. Lesbians who fall in love with a woman of a different nationality may find this pleasure tinged with anxiety, tension and perhaps fear. Couples living in the country of one partner without the other person having permanent residence, or living in a third country are subject to constant anxiety regarding visa renewal. It is impossible to make long-range plans together when even the country in which these plans will take place cannot be guaranteed.

Celeste (Swiss) 
Robin (Canada)

Celeste, who is Swiss, met her lover Robin while living in Canada. Celeste was in Canada first on a student visa, then on a visitor's visa. At present they are involved in trying to obtain immigrant status for Celeste on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. For the past year Celeste has been unable to work legally, as stipulated by her visitor's visa. This has greatly eroded her self-esteem and confidence. At least for Robin and Celeste there is a good possibility of being legally allowed to stay together in Canada in the not too distant future. A great deal hangs on which particular immigration officer happens to deal with their case. The Canadian government is anxious to avoid setting a precedent or getting involved in court cases, and tells each Lesbian granted a visa "this is special for you."

Antonia (British) 
Louise (USA)

Antonia is British and her lover Louise is a US citizen. They met in Japan and have been living there for 14 years. Their being able to continue living together is dependent on both being eligible for work visas, as Japan does not grant permanent resident visas except in the most exceptional cases. If one of them gets sick and is unable to work she will be expected to leave Japan and return to her own country, where the other cannot follow. The same situation will exist when they have to retire; although they are currently happy living in Japan, they are both in their forties and are concerned for the future. Will they be driven to asking for asylum in any country, so long as they can be together (the fate of two gay men, one British, the other Malaysian, who were eventually granted asylum in Sweden, as there was no other way they could live together)? Antonia would like them to be putting down roots somewhere in the West, visiting every couple of years so that when they have to leave Japan, it won't be for a completely unknown environment. The uncertainty creates tension in their relationship. Antonia gets angry because she feels that Louise doesn't take the issue seriously enough, while Louise (who is anxious but not willing to let it rule her life) wishes Antonia would be a little more optimistic, as the law may have changed by the time they retire.

Sue (USA)  Sherry (British)

Sue (a US citizen) and Sherry (a British citizen) are not so lucky. US and UK immigration laws currently allow no chance of their case even being considered. Their life in New York is constantly laced with worries about how many times Sherry will be able to renew her student visa. Sherry had held a responsible, well-paid job for many years back in England. The cash for university fees was not a problem, so Sherry decided to become a student again even though she has a Master's degree and was progressing along a comfortable career path in England. They feel completely unable to make plans for the future, as they do not know where they will be living in a year's time.

Immigration Problems of F


Jane (UK)
Tumiko (Japan)

Jane and Yumiko decided that the problems of living together in either the UK or Japan were too great. Neither wanted to abandon her career to become an illegal immigrant, so they commute, spending weeks (months, if they are lucky) together when work schedules and finances allow. The strain of being apart, of trying to communicate by letter and long-distance telephone calls through no choice of their own, is intimidating. They never get a chance to truly relax and develop a daily routine together, because being together by definition means vacation time, and one of them is always either coming or going.

Resources:

The Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force,
GPO 415, Sydney 2001, NSW, Australia.

LEGIT (Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force), P.O. Box 384, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N2, Canada.

Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, Inc., c/o Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 666 Broadway 12th Floor, New York, New York 10012, USA.

Stonewall Immigration Group, 2 Greycoat Place, Westminster, London SW1P 1SB, UK. Tel. +44 171 222 9007; Fax +44 171 222 0525.

The Group which campaigns and offers support for lesbian and gay couples, includes over 250 couples who face separation or who have been separated by the UK's discriminatory immigration rules



Joy (USA)
Noriko(Japan)

Joy, a US citizen, and Noriko, an Okinawan (Japanese citizen), plan to live in Japan at least until Joy retires. They optimistically assume that since Joy has now lived in Japan for 18 years and has found a high - status, well-paid job (if she doesn't become disabled or for some other reason unemployed), she will eventually be granted permanent residence. Permanent residence status means being able to live in Japan after she retires. There are no qualifications that guarantee a petitioner the legal right to this, however, and Joy has already been denied permanent residence once. They want to build a house but are waiting in part because Joy, without permanent residence, is ineligible for a government-backed mortgage. Joy, a university professor, has the right to study abroad for a year. Which country she choose to do this in will depend on where Noriko can get a visa to live. This golden opportunity may place more of a financial burden on Joy than for other professors, if Noriko has to pay school fees to get a visa or is denied the right to work part-time (a choice some countries grant an accompanying spouse). They are starting to invest money for retirement, and common sense demands investing in the currency of the country you intend to retire in. Joy is happy in Japan now, but her first choice for retirement might be her home country, a country where there is an ashram for meditation discipline she follow, or a country with a lower cost of living than Japan. But will Noriko and Joy both have the right to live in the same preferred country 25 years from now?



Maros (Japan)
JJ(Australian)

Maros is Japanese and JJ is Australian. They had been together for eight months when JJ's working holiday visa expired. JJ was able to extend the visa for six months but the couple was faced with the problem of how to stay together in Japan beyond that time. Immigration laws stipulate that to be granted a working visa in the humanities area, the applicant must have either five years work experience or a university degree. JJ had neither. After considering all possible options (fake certificate, adoption, etc.) JJ decided to return to Australia to finish her degree and Marou decided to go with her for the year. Marou's tourist visa meant she had to leave and re-enter after six months, and the couple had to borrow extensively to finance the year in Australia. JJ was able to complete her degree and re-entered Japan on student visa for post graduate study. Two years later they are still in debt and faced annually with the stress and anxiety of JJ's visa renewal.

They have now been together for five years, and in order to protect their rights as partners the two have both drawn up wills in their respective countries of birth. They are the first same-sex couple in Japan to register a 'joint living agreement' which places their wishes as partners over those of biological family or relatives. This document, whilst underlining the importance of their relationship to them, is not construed by them as marriage and offers JJ no basis no which to make future visa applications.

Bi-National Lesbian Couples

by Amanda Hayman



Tracy (USA)
Sandra(British)

Tracy and Sandra are a US/UK couple living in a third country. Since they met in Japan two years ago they've been living together and their relationship has become extremely important to both of them. Sandra wants to return to the US to do a Master's degree, and with much reluctance has decided that she will do this even if it means separating. Tracy will probably follow her once she is settled back in the US, although the two know that the chance of Tracy being able to get a green card are very slight. This means that Tracy, who would probably have done her B.A. if she'd returned to England, will be unable to continue her education or get a proper job.

These women, and thousands like them, are putting huge amounts of energy and time into simply being together. Their lives are disrupted in ways that heterosexual couples would never dream of having to deal with. The only way to combat this disruption is for laws to change. There are at least three possibilities. One is that, like New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and recently Canada, other countries relax immigration privileges granted to spouses of citizens to include de facto partners of either sex. In New Zealand a relationship that can be proved to be of two years' duration allows the alien partner to be given a work visa, and after

four years together citizenship is granted. The onus is on each couple to prove the duration and commitment of the relationship, which can be difficult if partners have been unable to live in the same place. Joint bank accounts, credit cards and wills naming each other as beneficiaries are all a big help.

The second would be for other nations to adopt the Australian system of allowing non-related people who a citizen can prove plays an important part in their life to be sponsored.

And finally, marriage laws could be changed, giving Lesbians the right to be legally married. If this came about Lesbians could then legally pass on

their citizenship to their spouses as conveniently as is at present possible for heterosexuals.

For the Lesbians whose stories are told here perhaps change will not come before stress takes its toll and they give up the fight to maintain a promising relationship with a woman of a different nationality. But down the generations cross-cultural Lesbian relationships will continue, and it is time that immigration laws throughout the world reflect this fact and are suitably amended.

All names and some cities have been changed to protect the women involved. For the same reasons some stories are composites.



Chinese Tongzhi Conference

by Barrie Brandon

About 200 Chinese tongzhi (Lesbians bi sexuals, Gays and all transgendered people) from different regions gathered in Hong Kong and participated in the "1996 Chinese Tongzhi Conference" organised by Isvara of Hong Kong from December 6 to 8, 1996. Participants included Horizons, Ten Percent Club, Lui Tung Yuen, XX Party, Satsanga, Art and Culture Club, Bless Minority Christian Fellowship, Worldson Books and other local tongzhi organisations in Hong Kong.

The Conference, according to the press release, discussed a number of tongzhi-related issues, including tongzhi culture and arts, social services for tongzhi, AIDS issues, bisexuality, and Lesbian politics. There was an extensive discussion regarding the specificity of the cultural context and needs of Chinese tongzhi. Participants concluded that it is unnecessary to copy the model of Les-bi-Gay liberation movement in the Anglo-Saxon societies, which is characterised by individualism and confrontational politics and agreed that Chinese tongzhi movement should be cultural-specific.

The conference failed to come up with any positive steps that local Chinese tongzhi

could or ought to take in coming to terms with their sexuality. Instead their seems to have been a great deal of effort wasted on the negative things 'what we should not do.'

There is too an all-pervading thought that continues to haunt me that the whole thing was simply another name for a friendship weekend. Now, let it be immediately said that there is ample room for friendship weekends. And a good thing they are too. They allow people from different places, backgrounds and cultures to mix on a social level and do a great deal to enhance understanding and co-operation.

A good understanding of how

Friendship Weekends work would be to look at the International Friendship Weekend held in London this summer. Over 150 participants spent the time getting to know one another and partaking in a wide variety of workshops as well as a number of social-type functions.

Friendship Weekends have a life of their own and usually, by their very definition, cease to exist once the weekend is over.

Conferences on the other hand usually have a clear and stated purpose and function on the discussion level. It follows that

any conference worthy of the title would take careful notes of what was said, conclusions and recommendations so that these could be reported at a later stage. It certainly has an edge over relying on one person's memory.

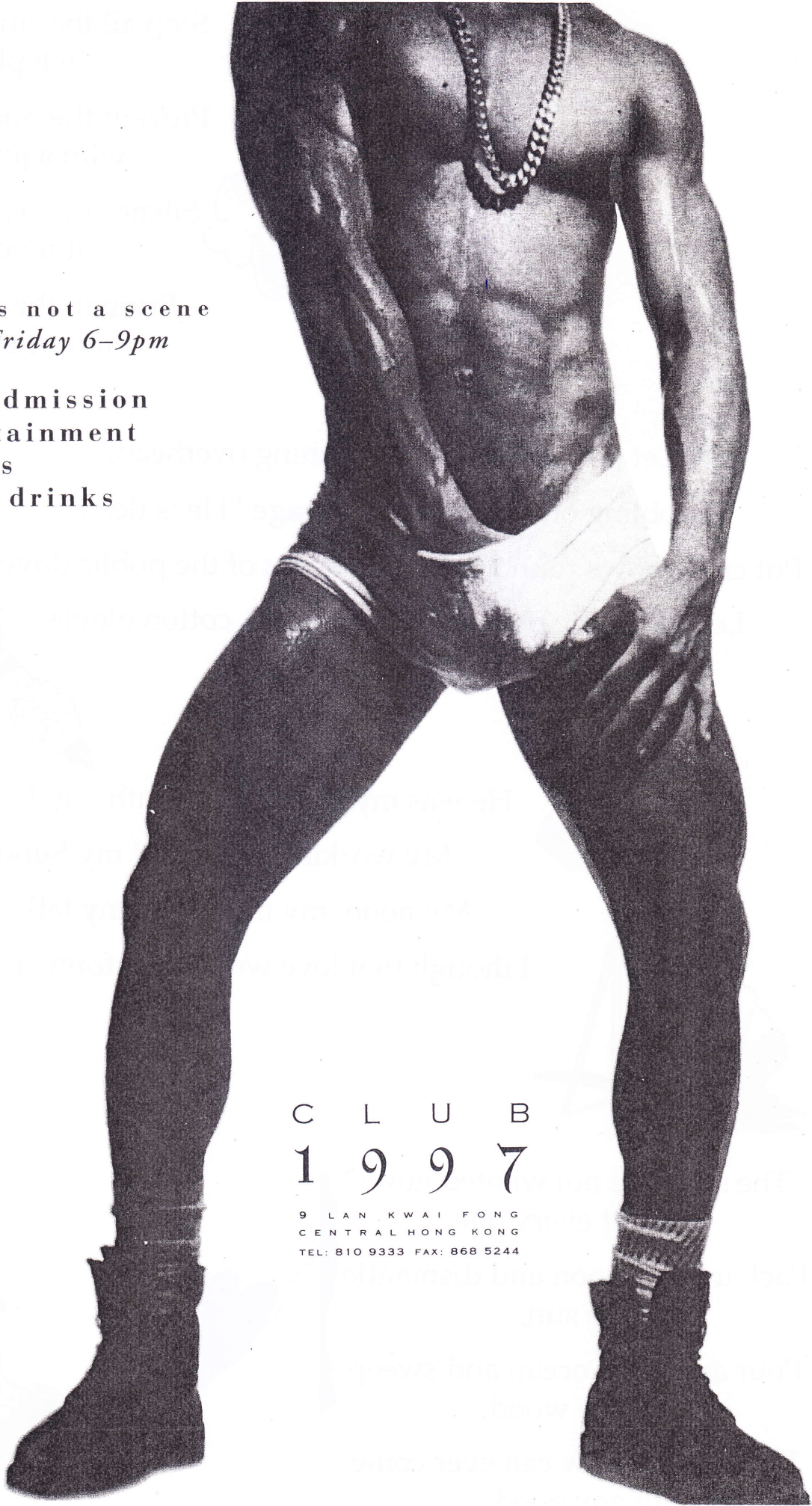
It seems to some people though that this conference prefer that we all just stay in the closet and wait for some divine edict from heaven to bestow equality.... As if anyone ever got anything by being po-

There is too, an all-pervading thought that continues to haunt me, that the whole thing was simply another name for a friendship weekend.

lite, and waiting for those stronger ones to change things. These politics are extremely dangerous, lulling people into a false sense of security.

Julian Chan promising that next years conference would be better planned and designed said "it's up to others now to take over what I started."

From all that I've talked to this conference did little to motivate people to do anything for the community. That in itself speaks volumes.

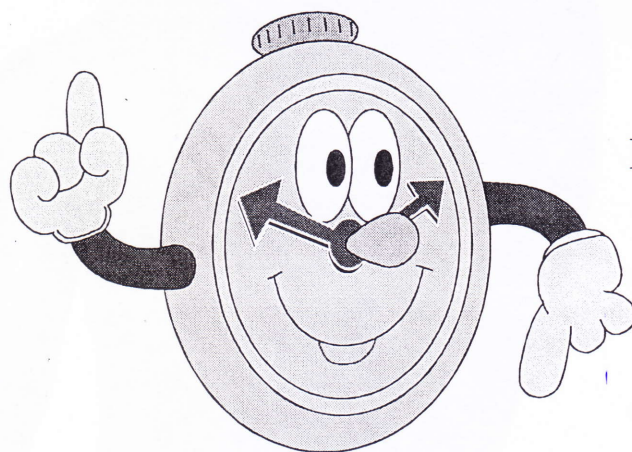


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every Friday 6-9pm

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entertainment
snacks
2-4-1 drinks

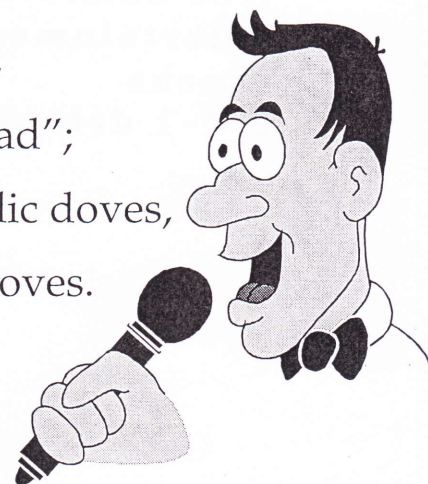
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Stop all the clocks, cut off the
telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking
with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos, and with
muffled drum,
Bring in the coffin; let the
mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead,
Scribbling on the sky the message "He is dead";
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.



He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.



The stars are not wanted now;
put out every one,
Pack up the moon and dismantle
the sun,
Pour away the ocean and sweep
up the wood,
For nothing now can ever come
to any good.



W.H. Auden



Out On the Net

Searching the Web

by Spode

Spode@sqzm14.ust.hk

As the sheer volume of information available on the World-Wide Web continues its exponential expansion, it is increasingly difficult to locate anything useful. Web directories such as Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com/>) remain helpful, and are having their features constantly expanded. But their very focus has several disadvantages. Directories often have links to only a few selected sites under subject categories, and if you don't understand their method of organisation, you will not find what you want. A major improvement was the inclusion of search options into these directories, which greatly increased the likelihood of locating what you want.

Several sites have gone in a different direction, developing massive search engines to provide broader and more flexible access to resources. These are designed to locate Internet resources, create a database of resource information, and provide searching of that database in a number of different ways. While these servers have many similarities, it is important to be aware of the differences.

Some search engines index selected Web resources based on subject, geographic region or other characteristics. Alta Vista (<http://altavista.digital.com/>) will not include Web pages that require forms to be filled in, registration, or passwords. Once a site is included, there are differences in what is actually added to the index. Open Text (<http://index.opentext.net/>) indexes all words while others will ignore words like 'the'. Some may only include the title and the first 10-50 words. Search engines may provide complex search commands or natural language searching and each has its own manner of ranking the results of a search inquiry. Some search engines try to 'weight' the index, so words

that appear more frequently on a page will be weighted higher. Because of these differences in searching techniques, indexing, and Web page selection, each engine may come up with different results for the same search query. Thus, it is a good idea to search more than one search engine.

A few recent sites, such as All-in-One Search Page (<http://www.albany.net/allinone/>) and search.com (<http://www.search.com/>), have directories of search engines. They provide a way for the user to query different engines from a single location. But the searches are performed one at a time.

The meta-search engine provides a front-end which will interrogate several search engines simultaneously. Metacrawler (<http://metacrawler.cs.washington.edu:8080/>) accesses up to 8 different search engines at one time and allows the user to set a variety of parameters including a time limit on the search. Meta-search engines save time and reduce the number of different search commands that may be used. However, they are not able to use all of the special search features that individual search engines offer.

The most useful directory for the Queer explorer is the Rainbow Query (<http://www.glweb.com/RainbowQuery/>). Although it is fairly new, it already has over 30,000 URLs indexed, all verified for queer content. They have even developed a set of 200 cross-indexed subject categories, to which they are assigning sites. I especially like the listings of 'Queer Comic Strips' at <http://www.glweb.com/RainbowQuery/Categories/Caroons.html>. But beware - only 4000 URLs have categories assigned so far, so browse them, but make sure to run a search if you don't find what you are looking for!

What if Condoms Had Corporate Sponsors?

Nike Condoms

Just do it.

Toyota Condoms

Oh what a feeling.

Diet Pepsi Condoms

You got the right one, baby.

Pringles Condoms

Once you pop, you can't stop.

Mentos Condoms

The freshmaker.

Flinstones Vitamins Condom Pack

Ten million strong and growing.

Secret Condoms

Strong enough for a man, but pH balanced for a woman.

Macintosh Condoms

It does more, it costs less, it's that simple.

Ford Condoms

The best never rest.

Chevy Condoms

Like a Rock.

Dial Condoms

Aren't you glad you use it? Don't you wish everybody did?

New York Lotto Condoms

Cause hey - you never know.

California Lotto Condoms

Who's next?

Avis Condoms

Trying harder than ever.

EverReady Condoms

Keeps going and going...

KFC Condoms

Finger-Licking Good.

Coca Cola Condoms

Always the Real Thing.

Lays Condoms

Betcha can't have just one.

Campbells Soup Condoms

Mm, mm good.

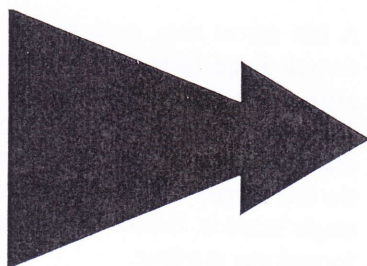
Moving On,

Moving In,



Andy Quan and friend at the ILGA Rio World Conference

Moving Up!



A New Co-ordinator for ILGA.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), a federation of over 300 groups from 80 countries fighting for the rights of Lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transgender people, announced late November that Lawrence Aronovitch of Victoria, Canada had been appointed as the new co-ordinator. Chosen from over twenty candidates from all over the world and a wide range of backgrounds, Aronovitch will replace Andy Quan, who after a two-year tenure with ILGA will be moving to London to pursue free-lance work.

Aronovitch arrives at a crucial time in ILGA's 18 year history. Recent years have brought an enormous growth of an international movement of Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups and individuals; many victories on the legal and institutional level; and a burgeoning world-wide awareness of lesbian and gay human rights issues. ILGA is poised for renewal and growth; and is looking at how the organisation can best adapt to these new developments. ILGA's new co-ordinator will focus on bringing positive changes to ILGA by consulting with member groups and individuals in preparation for the ILGA 1997 World Conference in Koln. Challenge & Pride.

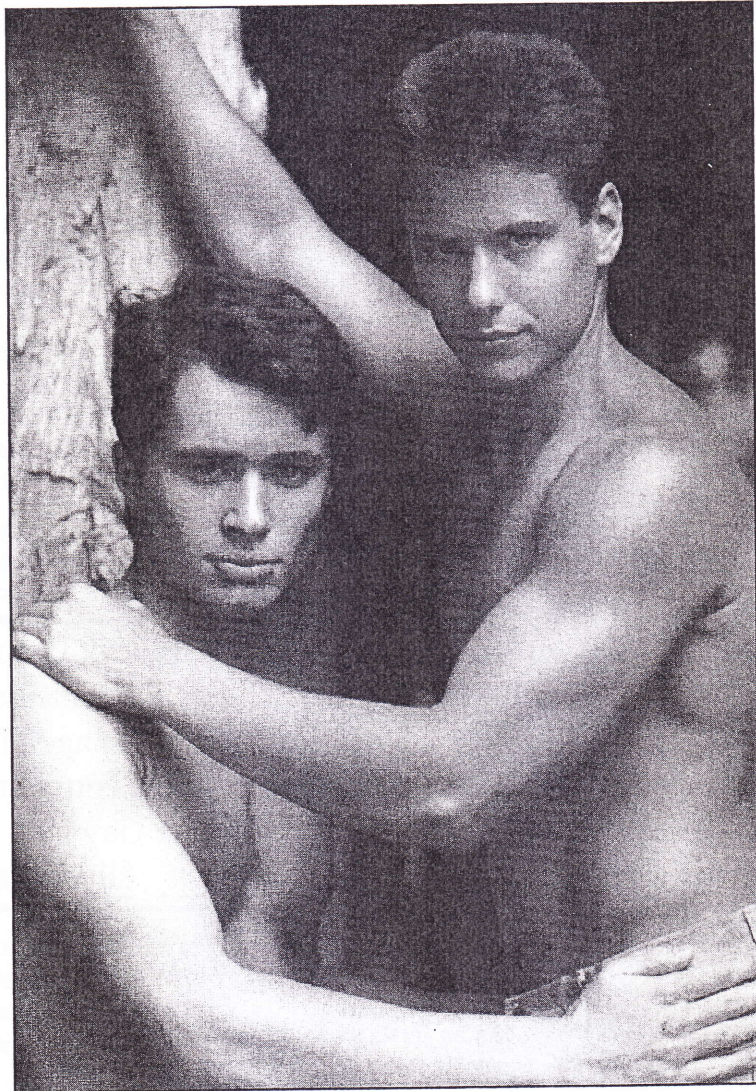
Aronovitch brings an impressive set of skills and experience to ILGA. He is the vice-president of Canada's national organisation, EGALE (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere), where he contributed to the recent passage of a federal law which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. After degrees at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he worked in Canada's space program as an

analyst of international trends, and helped to manage Canada's science and technology interests in Japan and other parts of Asia. Before coming to ILGA, he worked as a free-lance consultant and writer from his home in Victoria, B.C.

The co-ordinator of ILGA is the only the paid employee of the organisation. Responsibilities include everything from fund-raising and editing the quarterly ILGA Bulletin to co-ordinating Secretariats' Committee Meetings and taking care of all communication. Aronovitch will begin his duties at ILGA's European Regional Conference in Madrid, Spain on December 27-31.

Outgoing co-ordinator, Andy Quan, announced, "I'm glad to be passing over my responsibilities to someone with as much vision and as many capabilities as Lawrence. I encourage all of you to get involved and help him make ILGA the best that it can be. Fighting for the right to love all over the world."

intimate friends



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LAST ONES

“Frankly, I am rather lonely,” a friend recently wrote me. And I know what he means. It wasn’t so much a general confession of isolation as a comment on the Gay community, which he had recently joined at the age of fifty-six. Few of us draw mobs of people when we tell the world the truth about ourselves, and even fewer of us expect to. But to come out to an empty room that seems as if the party has just left can be a disillusionment that doesn’t go away. Such is the case today for many older Gays who come out or are ready to come out. It’s time for that to change.

I can speak from experience, having come out six years ago at the age of sixty-seven into a community where older Gay men were virtually invisible. Older people go through many of the same struggles as eighteen-year-olds in coming out and face many of the tribulations, including severed ties with peers and family members. But we of a certain age often find even less of a welcoming committee and little support group to come out to. My friend’s story is a case in point.

“I ‘came out,’” he writes, “because I just couldn’t continue to hide and deny my own sexuality. I literally didn’t have a Gay friend in the world. I had done everything ‘right’ in those years except to be who I was. I graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and became a Marine officer, rising to the rank of colonel.

“As an intelligence officer, I served all over the world, including Vietnam, where I received a Purple Heart, a Legion of Merit and other decorations. I was able to exercise my sexuality, but always clandestinely, in the back rooms, the toilets and dark alleys. in the seedy hotels, in the apartments of strangers. I was married and had two sons, now twenty and twenty-four. I served in the White House in the Administrations of Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan. I was successful. I had done everything ‘right.’

“Like all Gay men in the closet, I thought often of coming clean and just saying ‘I

am Gay,’ but I was afraid. I was certain that my professional and personal life would become a shambles. It just didn’t seem worth it. But, then, like to all of us, the time came. For me it was the 1993 March on Washington. I watched Lesbians and Gay men, marching forward, heads up and proud. I finally realised that I was one of them, and I had to, I must articulate it. And I did.

“My fears became reality — a brutalising divorce, the loss of my home, family, and most of my possessions, my professional

I can speak from experience, having come out six years ago at the age of sixty-seven into a community where older Gay men were virtually invisible.

career in tatters, bankruptcy, the whole ball of wax. But, as this personal trauma is ending, I have fully rediscovered my own self-worth and honesty. I feel totally

free. I have learned about the wonderful diversity and activism of Gay life of which I had been totally unaware. My efforts at volunteerism are still faltering, but heartfelt, to the end that others may live their lives better than did we.”

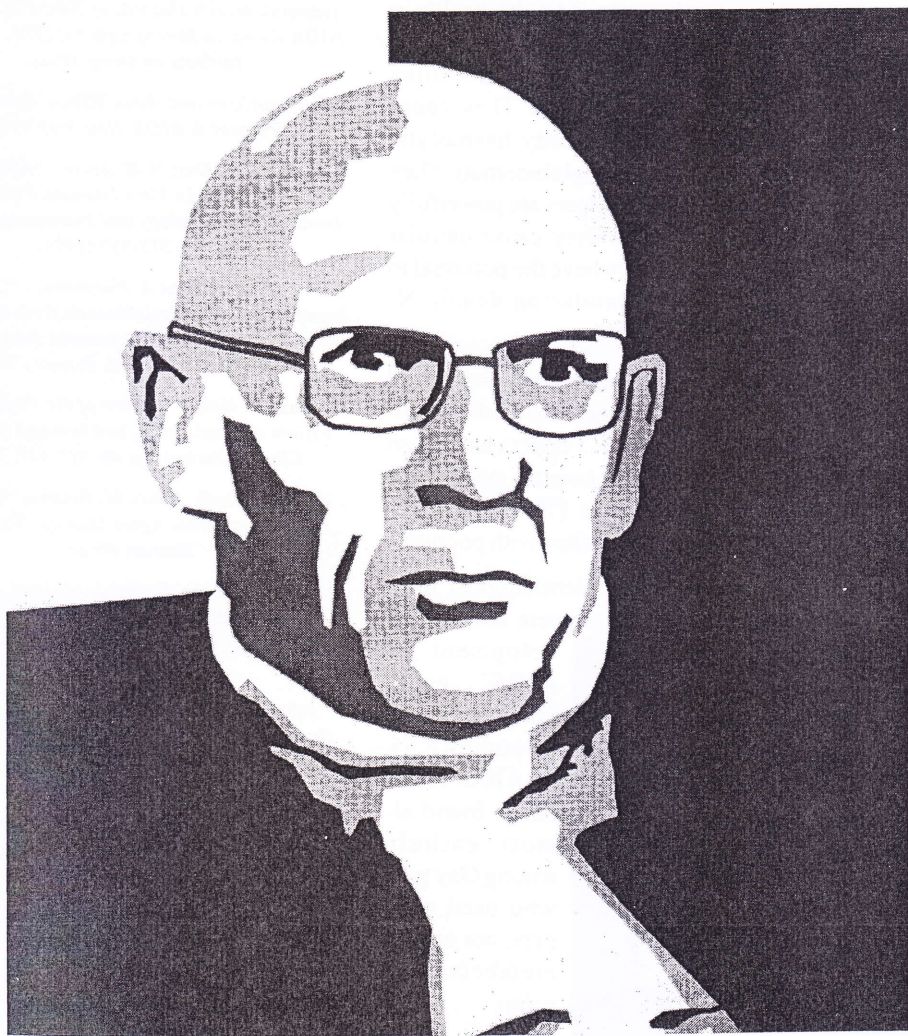
Yet his finishes with the admission: “But frankly, I am rather lonely.”

The advances made by the Lesbian and Gay community in the past twenty-five years — and the resistance it has encountered in the political arena — have made it both easier and more urgent for people of all ages to affirm their sexuality. In so doing, the older folks are desperate to make up for their lost years in the closet. They want to begin to become part of our

"Like all Gay men in the closet, I thought often of coming clean and just saying 'I am Gay,' but I was afraid. I was certain that my professional and personal life would become a shambles.

TO THE PARTY

by Marvin Liebman



community — not so much in the bars and dance halls where they are unwelcome, and certainly not hitting on young men or women with the assurance of rejection. But, they are desperate to participate and take a stand with their brothers and sisters — and to do it together with them.

Those of us interested in a truly inclusive Lesbian and Gay community need to think about how hospitable whatever their own part of that community really is. Older Gays and Lesbians are ready to come out. Each of must create a way of welcoming and nurturing and loving the older people in our midst. They can learn from the young people, and the younger members of our community can certainly learn from them.

Over recent years, there has been a lot of talk about "outing" homosexuals, and many have been "outed". Let us give those who come out voluntarily a place to come out to.

Poppers



by John Lauritsen

It is a matter of grave concern that there has been, in the past few years, a resurgence of drug use among Gay men. The fashionable Gay drugs, in America, now seem to be crystal meth, ecstasy, and Special K, as well as such standbys as alcohol, poppers, cocaine, and quaaludes.

Since 1983 I have been trying to warn Gay men about the dangers of poppers (volatile nitrites), in collaboration with Hank Wilson of San Francisco, who in 1981 founded the Committee to Monitor Poppers. Our efforts were largely successful. Laws banning poppers were passed by local and state governments, and finally by the US Congress. Many Gay men stopped using poppers, as they became aware of their immunosuppressive and carcinogenic properties.

Nevertheless, poppers are being sold again openly in some cities. The miasma of popper

fumes has again become a taken-for-granted aspect of the "Gay lifestyle".

Poppers are hazardous to the health in many different ways: They damage the immune system. They reduce the ability of blood to carry oxygen. They cause anaemia (both Heinz body haemolytic anaemia and methemoglobinemia). They damage the lungs. Poppers are powerfully mutagenic (that is, they cause cellular mutations), and they have the potential to cause cancer by producing deadly N-nitroso compounds.

Poppers can cause serious skin burns and death or brain damage from cardiovascular collapse or stroke. Poppers have been used successfully to commit suicide (by drinking) and murder. (The victim was gagged with a sock soaked with poppers.)

There are strong epidemiological links between the use of poppers and the development of

AIDS, especially Kaposi's sarcoma (KS). In AIDS cases, KS is found almost entirely among Gay men who used poppers, not among members of other "risk groups".

The miasma of popper fumes has again become a taken-for-granted aspect of the "Gay lifestyle".

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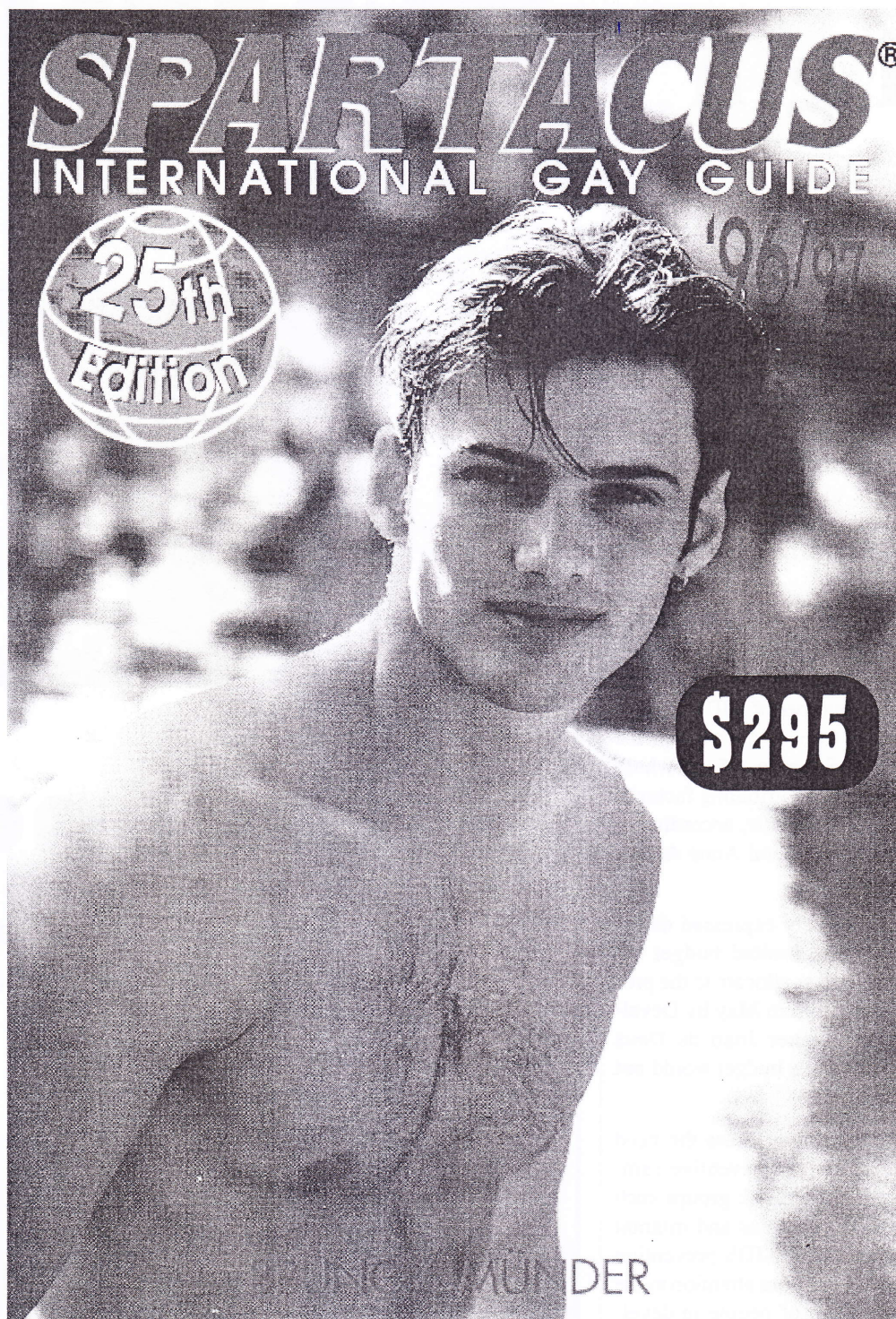
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AIDS Fight

The European Parliament approved, in November, a European Union plan to spend 45 million Ecus over the next three years to fight the spread of AIDS in Asia and developing countries.

But to the disappointment of the parliament's Development committee, a majority of MEPs rejected the inclusion in the draft regulation of provisions to ensure the money was spent primarily on helping people with AIDS in the poorest countries.

There are 17 million people with AIDS world-wide, over 15 million of whom live in developing countries. By the turn of the century, the number of AIDS cases is expected to rise to over 40 million, the majority in sub-Saharan Africa where poverty is the main contributing factor to the spread of the epidemic, according to a report by Belgian liberal Anne Andre-Leonard.

MEPs have repeatedly expressed disappointment with the limited budget the Council is prepared to allocate to the programme but were told in May by Development Commissioner Joao de Deus Pinheiro that the EU's budget would not stretch to more.

Other recommendations stress the need to focus EU action on preventive campaigns targeted at high-risk groups such as street children, refugees and migrant workers, and to teach AIDS prevention in a way which pays more attention to the cultural sensibilities of people in developing countries.

Commissioner Christos Papoutsis told MEPs the programme was geared towards prevention. This would include co-operation with the pharmaceutical industry to produce the lowest cost medicines.

Hong Kong



MEN



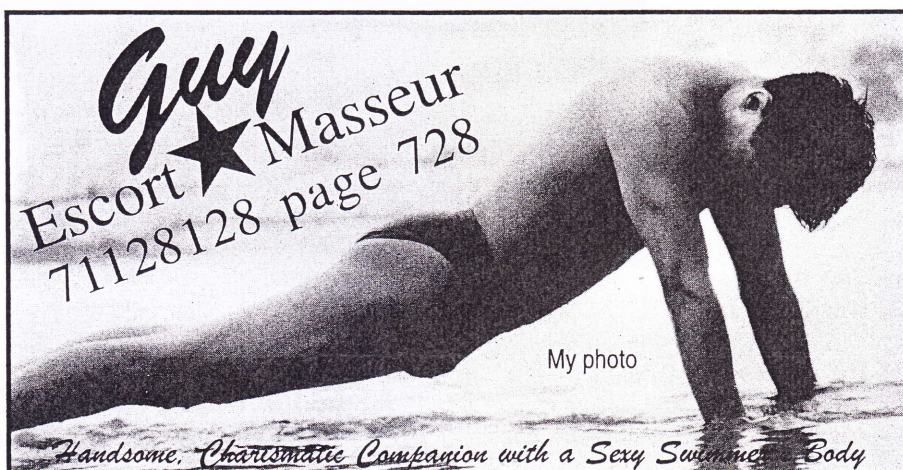
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7 Calendar

Send crossed cheque with name and address to:

Island Publishing Company Limited
GPO Box 13427 Hong Kong



The last few months has seen a plethora of new magazines from mainly voluntary groups from around the world. If you are looking for pen-pals it might be worthwhile writing to them.

The first three issues of *YKE!*, a publication by the Costa Rican group "Asociacion de Lucha Por El Respeto A La Diversidad Sexual- ALUDIS" (Association for the Fight for the Respect of Sexual Diversity). It's an 8 page Spanish language news and seems to appear every other month. Annual subscription is 1000 colones. Write to: Boletin YKE, Apartado 1766-2050, San Jose, Costa Rica, Central America.

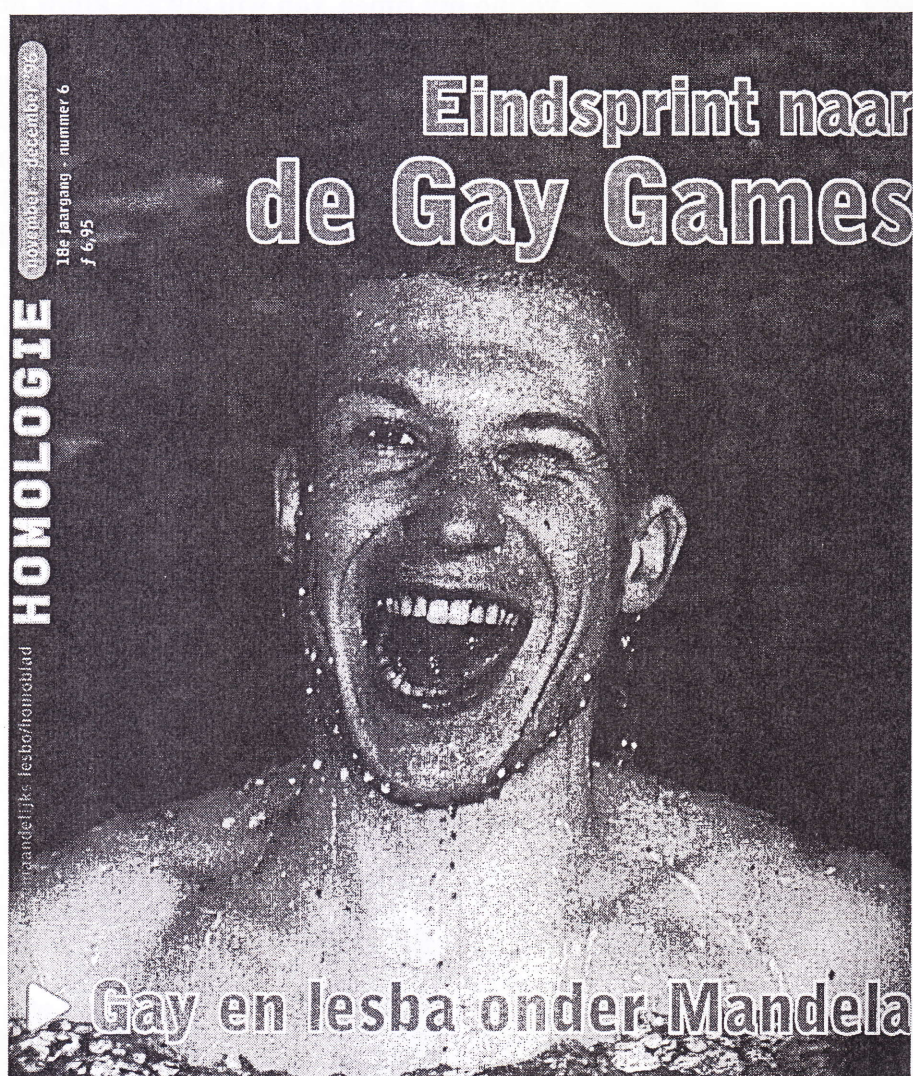
TRIKONE magazine is for Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual South Asians and features voices from all over the South Asian diaspora - voices from Pakistan, Indians living abroad, Muslims and Hindus. Interviews, explorations of religion, articles personal and political. Contact lists, resources, classifieds. Fascinating stuff. Homosexuality only from the West? Think again. PO Box 21354, San Jose, CA 95151-1354. USA. (trikone @rahul .net)

With the help of the British trade union, *UNISON*, a 4 page newsletter called *UP-START* is being produced in for "Gay women & men in Northern Ireland." Drop them a line at 33 Athol St, Belfast BT12 4GX

The Gay/Bisexual Program of the National Foundation for AIDS Prevention, Education and Management (FUNDASIDA) is producing a Dutch-funded glossy Spanish language magazine called "*ENTRE AMIGOS*". Issue #2 from March 96 was 18 pages long and reported on a Central American Lesbian and Gay Conference and articles on safe sex, community, and social and legal problems of the homosexual community. Write: Entre Amigos, Urbanizacion Elisa, Pasaje "A", casa #23, Colonia Layco (entre 19 Av Nte y 31 Calle Pte), San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

SSSHHH! is the newsletter of the national transgender library & archive, a division of the transgender group AEGIS. With an aim to "keeping our history in our own

NEW



Magazines

hands", the latest issue has a detailed history of a magazine called "Female Mimics" 1963-1979. Write AEGIS at PO Box 33724, Decatur GA 30033, USA (aegis@mindspring.com)

FRIENDSHIP is the theme of the next Gay Games and the title of their quarterly publication. Get ready, get excited and get registered for the next games. To receive *FRIENDSHIP* regularly, contact PO Box 2837, 1000CV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. (Info@gaygames.nl)

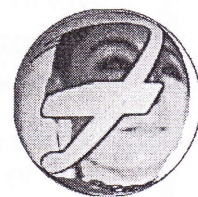


Dear Readers:

Over the past year, I'm sorry to say that I haven't come close to solving all the sexual problems the queer population in Hong Kong could ever have.

But I have decided to retire from public life, and the social services sector. This month's "sex advisor" will be the last in Hong Kong's history. No, it has nothing to do with the communists, or the transition next year, unless you include my invitation to the provisional legislature, which is where I will be devoting my time. You will always know how I'm doing, and where I am - just look for the most fashionably dressed lady in the crowd. I'll usually be close to either Nellie Fong, or Rita Fan as these two will always make me look good in comparison! The following are the last of the letters that I'll be able to answer. I do hope your life is a happy one - and do please keep in touch!

Fifi



Mademoiselle

Dear Fifi,

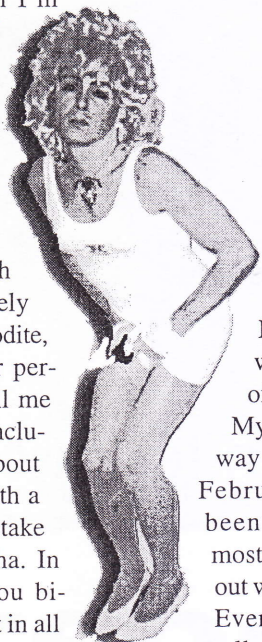
Usually, when I'm with a man, I think of men. But sometimes when I'm with a man, I think of women. Does this mean that I'm bisexual?

Bi and Bi

Dear Bye Bye,

When you fantasise about women when having sex with a man, you are either extremely trendy, a lesbian, a hermaphrodite, a government employee, or perhaps even Jeff Stryker. (Call me at home, I'll give you a conclusive answer.) If you think about women when having sex with a man, it's obviously time to take your Mama out for yum cha. In none of these cases are you bisexual, just maladjusted. But in all of these cases, you can absolve yourself by safely doing what feels best.

Bisexuality is when you like sex two ways. I like it on top, and I like it on bottom. Therefore, I am bisexual.



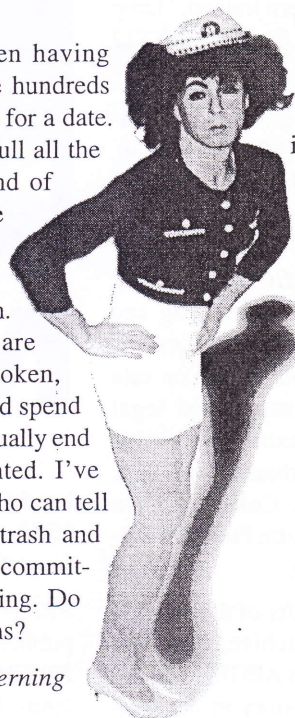
Dear Fifi,

Lately I've been having what seems like hundreds of men chase me for a date.

My diary is now full all the way through the end of February. But I've been finding that most of the guys I go out with are real trash.

Even though they are well dressed and spoken, have sculpted bodies, and spend lots of money on me, I usually end up extremely disappointed. I've always admired those who can tell the difference between trash and treasure before making a commitment to the whole evening. Do you have any suggestions?

Doubtfully Discerning



Dear DD,

You've used bigger words than I can understand in your letter, but one thing is for sure: One man's trash is another man's treasure! There are lots of ways of solving this problem. For starters, you could send them all over to my place for auditions. I'm a tireless and dedicated worker, and my casting couch rarely gets used, so we'd be glad to help out. Of course you could just bring them home and make sure the lights are turned out. (I learned this trick about 15 years ago when I first realised that I was probably going to spend my life with my current "roommate." And he's never been the wiser!) The advantage of this approach is that it cuts down the electricity bill too.

But for those of you who still can't cope with the deluge of

selle Fifi du Mi-sommet



Dear Fifi,

I am Chinese. I like eating egg tarts with my boyfriend, but once in a while I get a nasty taste in my mouth. In fact, egg tarts are perhaps my favourite snack, so I'm not about to give them up. Do you have any suggestions as to how I can guarantee that all my future egg tarts are fresh?

Sik Daan Taat

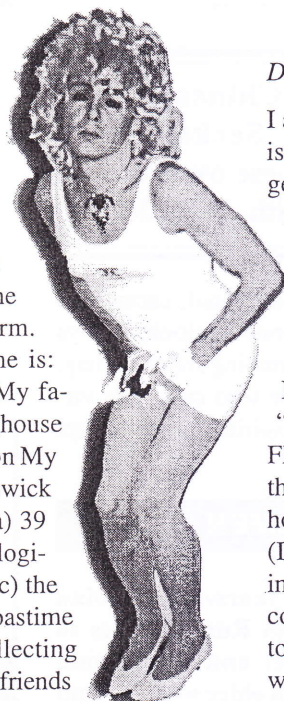
Dear Sicko,

I also love eating egg tarts! In fact, some of the most fun I've ever had is when my boyfriend and I eat them together. They are absolutely "finger licking delicious!" I don't mind that strange taste once in a while; it reminds me that I'm 100% queer. But I have to admit that from time to time, I do send my tricks to the shower for a scrub down.

If you feel that cleanliness is next to godliness, I suggest that you buy some enemas. I maintain a full inventory of the various brands. When I'm planning to bring home a local boy, I use the "Micro-Enema" brand. I also keep a case of the Fleet brand, but usually don't use them unless the Navy is in town. But my favourite are the home-made ones with vinegar and baking soda (I use a discarded liquid soap bottle to mix the ingredients in before use.) Sometimes I'm a little constipated, and so I keep a mixmaster by the bed to loosen myself up first - but I do this regardless of whether or not I'm eating egg tarts. Anyway you prepare yourself, eating egg tarts is almost always the best part of being queer.



men, I have been working on an application form that might prove handy. You simply have the interested party fill in the form. Here it is: My monthly income is: a) 5,000 b) 25,000 c) 150,000 My favourite designer is: a) Westinghouse b) Dianne Fries c) Fetish Fashion My mother's maiden name is: a) Keswick b) Zeman c) Tung My age is: a) 39 b) 39 c) 18 and a day My astrological sign is: a) the sun b) Pisces c) the year of the horse My favourite pastime is: a) collecting stamps b) collecting phone numbers c) collecting boyfriends My worst vacation was in: a) Pattaya b) Hong Kong c) Sydney



Hope this is a useful set of questions. If nothing else, you'll find out if your potential courtier knows how to read, and this could be important if you ever get to a restaurant with menus.

Editor's note: All letters of thanks to Fifi will be passed onto her.

PERSONAL ADVERTS

Advertisers are requested to reply to all letters received and to return photos when asked. ALA means All Letters Answered. Advertisers are asked not to state this unless they mean it.

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怎樣回覆徵友信箱

請依照以下的步驟來回覆徵友信箱，既簡又快捷；而我們亦會盡快將你的信交到他們手上，所有信箱服務期為三個月，由刊登開始。

步驟（一）：首先將你每一封信放在每一個獨立的白色信封內，然後在每一個信封的右上角寫上你要回覆的信箱號碼，及將信封封口。

步驟（二）：每一封信我們收取三個一元的郵票服務費。假若多過一封信，便要多給郵票，如此類推，但郵票並不一定要貼在信封上，只要將它放入寄給 Contacts Magazine 的信封內便可，然後將你的姓名及地址寫在一張紙上。

步驟（三）：將你的信、郵票及寫了姓名及地址的字條一起放入一個信封內，然後寄 Contacts Magazine G.P.O. Box 13427 Hong Kong.

Adverts for inclusion in the next issue should reach us by 20th February. Fill in the form on page 30 or fax us on 2817-9120.

Men

Kind, gentle, shy Englishman, 28, Mandarin speaker, good sense of humour. Seeks similar Chinese man for friendship leading to relationship. Looks not so important. Box 236

Chinese, 34 years, 5'7", 160lbs, overseas educated. Enjoys swimming, suba-diving exercise. Seeks married Chinese 28 - 35 for friendship/fun. Your photo ensures reply. Box 235

Chinese, 39 years, moustache. Like men over 40 for friendship. Photo please. Box 232.

FIND THE LOVE(S) OF YOUR LIFE-USE CONTACTS PERSONAL ADVERTS

British, 35, 6', handsome fit, macho stable secure. Seeks younger friends. Photo and letter please. Box 234

Asian non-Chinese, 37, moustache. Seeks kind hearted Chinese over 40 to fall in love with. Box 238

Chinese, 29, well-educated, caring and responsible, moderate outlook, enjoys music, reading, swimming and travelling. Want someone alike who can share virtues of life and for spiritual growth. Box 237

WOMEN



22 years-old Lesbian from Russia wants to meet and correspond with older women. I am a fashion designer, 164 tall weight 48 kilos. I have blue eyes and I am a brunette. please write with photo Oxana Ukraine 310055, Kharkov 8506 for Oksana.

PEN PALS



Seek outgoing smooth skin (non-hairy-clean shaven) boyish type with artistic & athletic interests. For real friendship. By L.A. Masculine Latin, 40, 172cm, 77kg,

109cm chest, sexy legs in hot shorts. Box 233

We are a German Spanish Gay couple looking for pen friends. Age looks not important, true friendship is! Please write to us in English, Spanish or German. Uwe Feldmann, c/ L'Oteru 3. C.P. 33192 Pruvia-Llanera. Principau D'Asturies, Spain.

Male 49 seeks Gays/Bisexuals for close friendship/relationship. Own house. ALA with photo. Maurice Peacock, 23, Dances Way, Hayling Island, PO11 OJP UK.



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G/F., 35 Peel Street,
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PETTICOAT LANE

2, Tun Wo Lane,
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Tel: 2973-0642
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5/F., Kingpower Commercial Bldg.,
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Tel: 2573-3978. 8:00pm-2:00am

CIRCUS CLUB

11/F., Ying Kong Mansion,
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Hong Kong.
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H2O

2/F., Hop Yee Bldg.,
474-476 Lockhard Road.,
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
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MEMBERS CONNECTION

3/F., 5 Lan Fong Road,
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Tel: 2890-7731. 8:00pm-3:00am

WHY NOT

12/F., Kyoto Plaza,
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SAUNAS & FITNESS CENTRES



AA

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Tel: 2577-3705. 2:00pm-12:00 midnight

AE

1/F., Kwong Ah Bldg.,
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Tel: 2591-0500. 2:00pm-12:00 midnight

BA

1/F., Flat D, Cheung Hong Mansion,
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Wanchai, Hong Kong.
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BLUE BLOOD

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BOBSON FITNESS CLUB

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Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
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CENTRAL ESCALATOR

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GAME BOY'S

2/F., 324 Lockhard Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong
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JJ PARK

3/F., Flat A, Fairview Mansion,
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Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Tel: 2882-2399. 3:00pm-1:00am

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42 Carnarvon Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Tel: 2369-8174. 4:30pm-12:00 midnight

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Tai Fan

1/F Chun Lee Commercial Bldg.,
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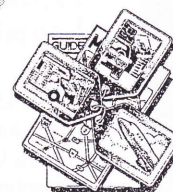
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AIDS CONCERN

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Helpline: 2898-4422

AIDS FOUNDATION

General Enquiries: 2560-8528
Helpline: 2513-0513
Infoline: 170-222-170

AIDS HOTLINE

Tel: 2780-2211

HIV INFORMATION & DROP-IN CENTRE

St. Johns' Cathedral,
Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Tel: 2525-7207, 2525-7208

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South Bay Road, Hong Kong

SOUTH BAY BEACH

South Bay Road, Hong Kong

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Tel: 9056-0693 (English)
(Social group organises many activities.)

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HORIZONS

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Tel: 2359-3195

LUI TUNG YUEN

PO Box 266,
Texaco Road Post Office,
Tsuen Wan, N.T.
Pager 7112-8936 a/c 7706

ISVARA

P.O.Box 74342,
Kowloon Central Post Office, Kowloon
Tel: 2782-0649 Fax: 2374-5948
(Gay Buddhist Group)

QUEER SISTERS

Pager 7112-8445 a/c 1613
Hotline 2314-4348
Older Lesbians

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PO Box 92128, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.
Tel: 2314-1921
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Tel: 2314-8726

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你是絕對有權利享受美好人生，愛滋基金會永遠在你左右相陪，現在便致電我們的愛滋病熱線。

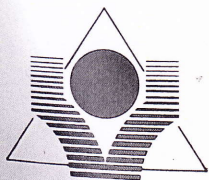
Your worries and questions are discreetly and anonymously answered on our AIDS Helpline.

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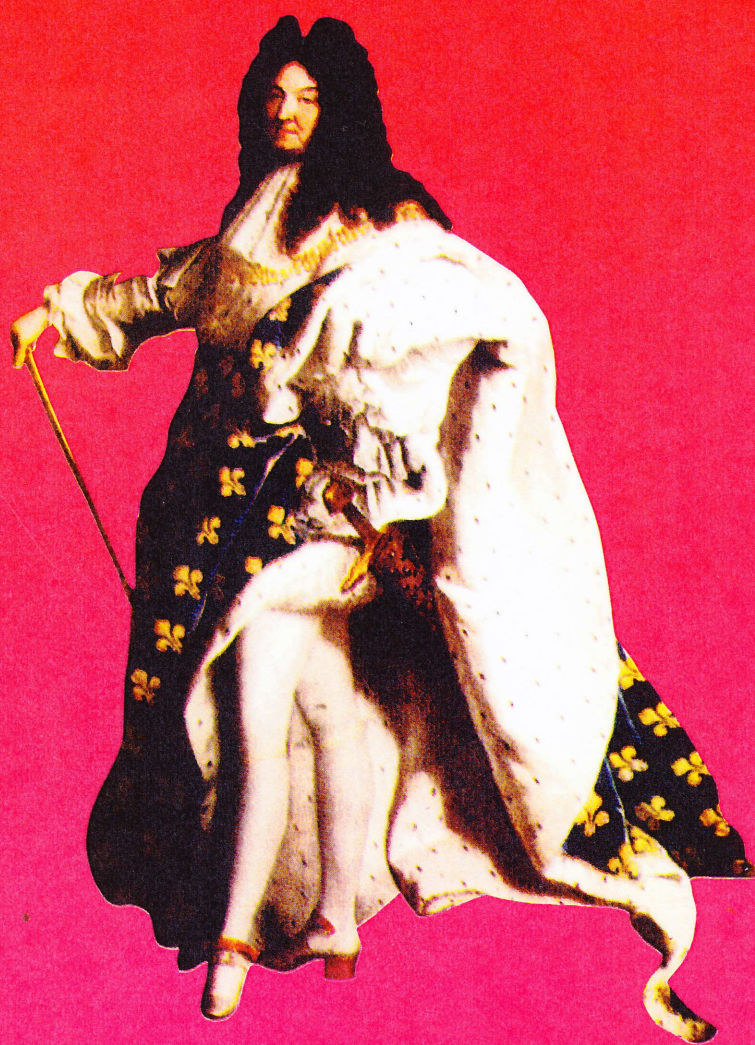
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